

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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AMEMBASSY LIMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, EGEN

SUBJ: SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION: COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP

REFS: USUN 3755, USUN 3821

1. SUMMARY: WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER GROUP (WEOG) DISCUSSED QUESTION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION AD HOC COMMITTEE (AHCW) OF THE WHOLE ON AUGUST 25. THE PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE OF A DEVELOPED COUNTRY. VARIOUS NOMINATIONS WERE PUT FORWARD. THE WEOG WILL TAKE UP THE MATTER AGAIN ON AUGUST 28-29. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IN THE MEANTIME IS PRESSING OTHER LDC'S TO ACCEPT MEXICAN AMBASSADOR BARCELO AS CHAIRMAN. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE INCLUDING PREFERENCES FOR SPECIFIC CANDIDATES FOR CHAIRMANSHIP. END SUMMARY.

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2. AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THE SPECIAL SESSION PREPCOM

DECIDED THAT THERE WOULD BE ONLY ONE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ORGANIZED AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION. THAT DECISION RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THAT COMMITTEE. FOR SEVERAL WEEKS DELEGATES HAVE BEEN INFORMALLY DISCUSSING THE RELATIVE MERITS OF A CHAIRMAN FROM A DEVELOPED OR DEVELOPING COUNTRY. SOME INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN MENTIONED IN THESE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. DELEGATES FAVORING A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A DEVELOPED COUNTRY MOST FREQUENTLY POINTED TO THE FACT THAT THE PLENARY OF THE SPECIAL SESSION WILL BE CHAIRED BY ALGERIAN FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA.

3. DESPITE THE COGENCY OF THE ARGUMENT THAT BALANCE IS REQUIRED ON THE BUREAU FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION, THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO HAS BEEN WAGING A CAMPAIGN AMONG THE LDC REPRESENTATIVES IN FAVOR OF MEXICO'S AMBASSADOR BARCELO. THE MEXICAN CASE IS PRESUMABLY BASED ON THE FACT THAT MEXICO CURRENTLY PRESIDES OVER THE G-77 IN NEW YORK. SOME LDC DELEGATES ARE RESISTING BARCELO'S CANDIDACY AND NOT ONLY BECAUSE THEY PERCEIVE CERTAIN ADVANTAGES TO THE LDC'S IF A REPRESENTATIVE OF A DEVELOPED COUNTRY CHAIRS THE AD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. THE DELEGATES IN QUESTION ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT BARCELO HAS BEEN A PARTICULARLY INEFFECTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE G-77 -- HE IS HAM-HANDED AND IS OPINIONATED. CERTAIN LDC REPRESENTATIVES, THEREFORE, HAVE APPROACHED THE UK MISSION TO THE UN, AS WELL AS USUN URGING THAT THE WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER GROUP (WEOG) PUT FORWARD A CANDIDATE FOR THE AD HOC COMMITTEE. THEY HAVE EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR SOMEONE FROM THE NETHERLANDS OR SWEDEN.

4. AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL MEETING OF THE WEOG ON AUGUST 25, THIS SITUATION WAS DISCUSSED AND IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE A CHAIRMAN FROM A DEVELOPED COUNTRY. UKUN SUGGESTED SWEDEN'S PERMREP RYDBECK. HE SUBSEQUENTLY DECLINED. DUTCH PERMREP KAUFMANN SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE HAGUE TO THE EFFECT THAT EITHER MINISTER PRONK OR LUDVIG VAN GORKOM (FORMERLY OF THE DUTCH MISSION IN NEW YORK) WOULD BE AVAILABLE AS CHAIRMAN, IN THE EVENT THAT THE CHAIRMANSHIP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD GO TO A DEVELOPED COUNTRY. UKUN ALSO SUGGESTED FINNISH PERMREP KARHILO (1974 PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC). THE FINNISH MISSION IS TO REPLY TO THIS SUGGESTION.

5. SINCE THE EXCHANGE ON THIS QUESTION WAS INCONCLUSIVE, ANOTHER WEOG MEETING AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 28 OR 29 TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER.

6. COMMENT: THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IS OBVIOUSLY AN IMPORTANT AND TRICKY QUESTION. ON BALANCE WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT A DEVELOPED COUNTRY SHOULD CHAIR THE COMMITTEE. THE DEVELOPED COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES SO FAR MENTIONED HOWEVER ARE SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTING. THE DUTCH IN GENERAL AND MINISTER PRONK IN PARTICULAR TEND TO OVER-COMPENSATE FOR THEIR BAD CONSCIENCE TOWARD THE LDC'S. KARHILO WAS NOT PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE AS PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC. RYDBECK APPARENTLY IS LOATH TO PREJUDICE HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE 30TH GA. (SEE USUN 3821). AMB. BARCELO OF MEXICO IS THE WORST NAME SO FAR ADVANCED.

7. OTHER LDC REPRESENTATIVES ARE BEING MENTIONED IN THE CORRIDORS UNOFFICIALLY. PAKISTANI'S AMBASSADOR AKHUND IS THE NAME MOST FREQUENTLY BROUGHT UP. HE HAS PROVEN TO BE AN ADMIRABLE PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC, EXHIBITING LEADERSHIP AND EXCEPTIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ABILITIES, IN ADDITION TO A KEEN MIND. THESE QUALITIES ARE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN LEADERSHIP OF A COMMITTEE WHICH IS BOUND TO BE SUBMITTED TO MORE THAN THE USUAL AMOUNT OF PRESSURE AND QUESTIONABLE TACTICS. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE MERIT IN THE VIEW THAT THE NATIONALITY OF THE CHAIRMAN IN SOME CASES IS LESS IMPORTANT THAN HIS ABILITY TO PRESIDE EFFECTIVELY.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: USUN WILL REQUIRE GUIDANCE ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING OF WEOG:

A. DOES THE USG HAVE A STRONG VIEW ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER A DEVELOPED OR DEVELOPING COUNTRY SHOULD CHAIR THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AT THE SPECIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SESSION?

B. WOULD WE HAVE ANY PREFERENCES AS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR KARHILO, ONE OR BOTH DUTCH CANDIDATES, OR AMBASSADOR AKHUND?

C. WOULD THE DEPARTMENT WISH US TO SUGGEST ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL?
MOYNIHAN

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